

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 555

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10843

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: COMMENT ON PRESIDENT FORD'S INTERVIEW WITH
TIME

1. THE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT FORD CARRIED IN THE
JULY 28 ISSUE OF TIME (PERMITTED TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN INDIA)
IN WHICH HE IS QUOTED AS REFERRING TO THE "TEMPORARY

DEMISE OF DEMOCRACY" IN INDIA HAS (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE)
GIVEN RISE TO ONLY ONE
DIRECT ATTACK ON THE U.S. IN THE INDIAN PRESS. THE
AUGUST 10 ISSUE OF THE CPI'S OFFICIAL WEEKLY, NEW AGE
ATTEMPTS TO ARGUE THAT THE REAL CAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
SADNESS IS NOT THE DEMISE OF DEMOCRACY BUT THE SETBACK
SUFFERED BY INDIA'S RIGHTISTS AND FASCIST. NEW AGE
CONTINUES: "OF COURSE, THE 'DESTABILIZATION' OF A COUNTRY
LIKE
INDIA IS REGARDED AS A PRE-REQUISITE TO CLAIM THE
TITLE OF AN 'OPEN SOCIETY' AND TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE
ACCUSTOMED VALUES AND STANDARDS OF SOME OF THE SELF-
ADVERTISED WESTERN DEMOCRACIES." THE ARTICLE THEN
LAUNCHES INTO A BROADSIDE ATTACK ON THE U.S. REITERATING
THE ACCUSATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL, INDIAN
AFFAIRS: "IN INDIA TOO THE CIA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY
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ACTIVE IN RECENT YEARS, SURELY NOT TO SERVE DEMOCRACY, AND

THIS HAS GONE ON THE OFFICIAL RECORD." THE ARTICLE
CONCLUDES: "ONE WONDERS HOW EXACTLY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT,
WHICH LIVES IN UNDYING OPTIMISM FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS
WITH THE USA, IS GOING TO TAKE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S UNBI
KED
FOR REMARK "THE RIGHTIST WILL NO DOUBT BE COMFORTED AND
WILL REJOICE."

2. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MRS GANDHI MAY HAVE HAD
PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARK IN MIND WHEN SHE ATTACKED THE
CRITICISM
OF CERTAIN UNNAMED COUNTRIES ON AUGUST 6 (NEW
DELHI 10696).

3. CONGRESS PRESIDENT BAROOAH FOUND AN OCCASION
TO GET IN A FEW ANTI-AMERICAN LICKS AT A SEMINAR ON THE
"CHARACTERISTICS OF ZIONISM" ON AUGUST 10. HAILING THE
PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND
NEO-COLONIALISM, BAROOAH SAID, "IN ONE SENSE, THEY ARE
FIGHTING FOR US IN INDIA ALSO." THE CPI DAILY PATRIOT
FURTHER QUOTED HIM AS SAYING, "THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE
A LINK-UP BETWEEN IMPERIALIST DESIGNS ON DIEGO GARCIA AND

THE ARAB GULF...SO EVERY PALESTINIAN WHO FALLS IN THE
STRUGGLE AGAINST THIS IMPERIALISM IS A MARTYR FOR
INDIA ALSO."
SAXBE

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